

NEWS

The Office Squatters' base

SQUATTERS moved into smart new premises next door to the National Youth Theatre in Holloway this week, thanks to an agreement with a developer, writes *Peter Gruner*.

But they will not be living in the premises – it is to be the venue for their exhibition on the history of squatting. The group ended their two-week occupation of a former Islington Council building in nearby Tufnell Park Road after the developer offered the spacious 150-foot, open-plan office in Holloway Road, next to the theatre school's rehearsal space.

The squatters have been given a six-week, peppercorn lease on the building for £1, with possible options to

extend their stay. The squatters are due to stage their exhibition at the office from Tuesday as part of a campaign against government plans to criminalise the movement.

Squatter caretaker Pete Phoenix said: "It shows what you can achieve when you talk to developers.

"We are unable to live at the premises, however, so we have moved in with other squatters or are living with friends."

For times of the

exhibition at 443-449 Holloway Road (near the Nag's Head) call 07721375374.

Pictured from left, squatters Pete Phoenix, Franklin Williams, Julio Inglesiass, Emily Murtle and Lisa Saveh (front).

